

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02

EB-07 FEA-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER  
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)  
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK  
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY  
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL  
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN  
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 074720

R 062158Z JAN 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O.11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 6, 1975:

QUOTE: ANNOUNCEMENT: BOB FUNSETH HAS ARRIVED AND STARTED  
WORK TODAY AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEWS OFFICE. JOHN KING IS  
GOING TO BE ALLOWED TO BE WITH US FOR ANOTHER WEEK AFTER  
WHICH JOHN WILL BE MOVING OVER AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO BILL  
ROGERS IN THE LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU.

Q. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT THE SECRETARY IN THE PAST TWO  
DAYS SENT FIVE LETTERS TO FIVE OIL STATES?

A. THE SECRETARY DID SEND LETTERS TO SEVERAL OIL-PRODUCING  
STATES. THIS WAS FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT  
FORD AND FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING IN MARTINIQUE.  
AND IN THESE LETTERS, THE SECRETARY INFORMED THESE OIL  
PRODUCING STATES OF THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WHICH HAD  
BEEN REACHED IN MARTINIQUE REGARDING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.

Q. WELL, THE ITEM THAT I AM REFERRING TO, THAT TALKS ABOUT

THE LETTERS HAVING BEEN SENT IN THE PAST TWO DAYS. IS  
THAT INACCURATE? HAVE ANY LETTERS GONE OUT IN THE LAST --

A. THEY WERE SENT VERY RECENTLY. BUT OBVIOUSLY, TO GET  
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TO THE QUESTION YOU ARE ASKING, THESE LETTERS WERE NOT  
RELATED TO THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW.

Q. WELL, DID THE LETTERS CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE WHATSOEVER  
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF FORCE?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO. THEY DEALT WITH THE SUBJECT THAT  
I JUST GAVE YOU NOW -- THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING BETWEEN  
PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING IN MARTINI-  
QUE.

Q. COULDN'T WE PIN DOWN WHEN THESE LETTERS THAT YOU ARE  
REFERRING TO WENT OUT? MY INFORMATION IS THEY WENT OUT  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IS THAT CORRECT OR NOT?

A. I UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WENT OUT VERY RECENTLY. THAT WAS THE LAST GUIDANCE I RECEIVED. NOW, MAYBE SOME OF THEM WENT OUT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, SOME AFTER. BUT LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO ON THAT.

Q. SECONDLY, CAN WE ESTABLISH THE NAMES OF THE STATES THAT THESE LETTERS WENT TO? YOU SAY "SEVERAL" AND THE REPORT WE HAVE SAYS FIVE, AND NAMES THEM.

A. YES. I KNOW THEY WENT TO THESE FIVE.

Q. DID THEY GO TO ANY OTHERS?

A. WHETHER THEY WENT TO ANY OTHERS, I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. LIKE ALGERIA, FOR EXAMPLE.

A. LET ME CHECK.

Q. TO BE CLEAR, YOU ARE DENYING THERE ARE TWO SETS OF LETTERS IN EFFECT -- I MEAN ONE SET THAT WAS SENT AFTER THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW. CORRECT?

A. MY INFORMATION IS THAT SOME OF THESE LETTERS, OR MAYBE ALL FIVE OF THESE LETTERS WENT OUT IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS. BUT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE BUSINESS  
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WEEK INTERVIEW IN ANY OF THESE LETTERS. WHETHER THEY WERE SENT BEFORE CHRISTMAS OR WHETHER THEY WERE SENT TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO, AS I WAS INFORMED.

Q. THESE WERE NOT EXPLANATORY -- REGARDLESS OF THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, THE LETTERS WERE NOT IN ANY WAY AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN SOME OF THE COMMENTS MADE IN THAT INTERVIEW.

A. NO, THEY WERE NOT RELATED TO THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, OR COMMENTS MADE ON THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW.

Q. JUST TO DOT THE I'S AND CROSS THE T'S, THOUGH, HAS ANY COMMUNICATION BEEN SENT BY THE SECRETARY OR ANY HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO THE OIL STATES IN RECENT DAYS BY WAY OF EXPLANATION OF THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW?

A. WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELVES, FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABROAD, THE SECRETARY'S ENTIRE INTERVIEW HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. BUT LET ME JUST SAY THAT THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS STAND ON THEIR OWN.

ONE OTHER POINT FOR YOU IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL PROTESTS BY ANY GOVERNMENTS TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN THE INTERVIEW, AND OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE BEEN HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS. THERE IS ONE GOVERNMENT, I RECALL, THAT HAD RECEIVED FRAGMENTARY PRESS REPORTS RIGHT AFTER THE INTERVIEW CAME OUT -- SOME OF THEM WERE BROADCAST, ETC. -- AND THEY CAME TO OUR EMBASSY AND ASKED OUR EMBASSY FOR THE FULL TEXT, AND "COULD YOU GIVE US THE TEXT IN ARABIC," FOR INSTANCE. NOW, THAT SORT OF COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH OUR EMBASSIES.

BUT I SAY AGAIN -- THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY PROTESTS, OFFICIAL PROTESTS.

Q. I WASN'T ASKING ABOUT PROTESTS. I WAS ASKING WHETHER ANY COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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OR BY ANY HIGH-RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TO EXPLAIN THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, OR TO CLARIFY.

A. NO, THERE HAVE BEEN NO NOTES, LETTERS OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU SENT BY THE SECRETARY OR OTHER HIGH-RANKING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO CLARIFY THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW. THERE HAVE BEEN CONVERSATIONS -- AS I GAVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF ONE THAT COMES TO MIND -- CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR EMBASSY. BUT THAT IS IT.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARLIER MESSAGES THAT WERE SENT ON THE MARTINIQUE CONFERENCE, DID THEY HAVE TO DO WITH THE

IMPLICATION THAT THE VALUE OF CURRENCY MIGHT BE CHANGED IN ORDER TO MEET HIGH OIL PRICES?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. WAS IT UNDERSTOOD BY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD SEND THESE LETTERS, AND WAS HE AWARE OF THE CONTENT OF THESE LETTERS?

A. I CANNOT ANSWER THAT. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER --

Q. DID WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO ISSUE LETTERS TO THE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS?

A. THEY MAY HAVE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY DID OR NOT.

Q. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW, OR YOU CANNOT TELL US WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS AT MARTINIQUE ON PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW ON NOTIFICATION TO THE OIL PRODUCERS.

A. WELL, ON THAT, I DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY. BUT I CAN ONLY ASSUME, AND I THINK ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD ASSUME, THAT THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE SOME TYPE OF AN UNDERSTANDING, IF YOU ARE GOING TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT A MEETING YOU HAVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE. THAT IS THE NORMAL WAY ONE DOES BUSINESS.

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Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY CLARIFICATION OR ANY WORD ON THE STATE OF MR. BREZHNEV'S HEALTH?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. I HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS YOU ARE REFERRING TO. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q. YOU SAID THAT ONE GOVERNMENT YOU DID NOT IDENTIFY ASKED FOR THE ARABIC TEXT. DID THEY GET IT?

A. IT WAS BEING DONE. WE HAVE VERY GOOD ARABISTS IN MOST OF OUR EMBASSIES ABROAD.

Q. SO YOU DID DO IT.

A. YES.

Q. COULDN'T YOU IDENTIFY THIS COUNTRY?

A. I WOULD RATHER NOT.

Q. MAY I COME BACK TO THE LETTERS FOR JUST A MOMENT.

A. SURE.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TELL US HOW MANY COUNTRIES GOT THOSE LETTERS -- INSTEAD OF TELLING US SEVERAL LETTERS WERE BEING SENT OUT. IF YOU CANNOT NAME THE INDIVIDUAL ADDRESSEES, COULD YOU AT LEAST TELL US HOW MANY?

A. I WILL LOOK INTO IT AND SEE. MY GUIDANCE SAYS "SEVERAL". I WILL SEE IF I CAN BE MORE PRECISE ON THAT, IF POSSIBLE.

Q. IF I CAN HAVE A QUESTION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT. HAVE THERE BEEN DATES FIXED FOR THE NEXT VISIT OF ALLON?

A. ON THE QUESTION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S VISIT, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY MET LAST WEEKEND WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ. HE MET ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON FOR ABOUT FORTY-FIVE MINUTES AND AGAIN YESTERDAY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF, BEGINNING AT ABOUT 5:30. AND THESE MEETINGS WERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
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SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ALLON. AND THERE WAS A FULL, FRIENDLY AND COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, IN ADVANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER YOU NOW HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF A WRITTEN OR VERBAL REPLY TO ANY OF THE IDEAS THAT ALLON WAS SAID TO HAVE LEFT HERE THE LAST TIME HE WAS HERE?

A. NO.

Q. YOU CAN'T SAY OR YOU DON'T HAVE THEM?

A. I THINK WE JUST GO BACK TO WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING HERE FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS NOW. WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE MAY BE HAVING WITH THE DIFFERENT PARTIES. IT IS A TIME FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY.

Q. YOU SAY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK FOR ALLON.

A. YES.

Q. THE LAST INFORMATION I THINK WE HAD FROM YOU IS THAT HE WAS ARRIVING HERE ON THE TENTH.

A. I HAVE NEVER MADE, AND I DON'T BELIEVE PAUL HAS EVER MADE, EITHER ANY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON WHEN FOREIGN

MINISTER ALLON WAS GOING TO COME. YOU REMEMBER, I THINK IT WAS DECEMBER 9 WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WAS HERE, HE MENTIONED IN THE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO COME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES, AND HE HOPED AT THAT TIME TO GET TOGETHER WITH THE SECRETARY AGAIN. AND THERE WERE SOME PRESS REPORTS THAT IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT THIS MIGHT BE ON THE 9TH, 10, OR 11TH OF THIS MONTH. NOW, IN VIEW OF FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S OWN TRAVEL SCHEDULE IN THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE HE IS GOING TO BE MAKING A TRIP IN THE STATES, AND THEN HE WILL COME BY AND SEE THE SECRETARY AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TRAVEL, AND THEN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY'S OWN SCHEDULE HERE, IT WAS DECIDED OVER THE WEEKEND, AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAS CHECKED THIS OUT, THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST TIME. BUT WE NEVER MADE ANY FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON IT.

Q. WERE THESE MEETINGS BETWEEN MR. DINITZ AND THE SECRE-

TARY HELD HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. YES.

Q. YESTERDAY, AND A WEEK AGO SATURDAY?

A. NO -- SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY HAD ANY MEETINGS WITH ARAB AMBAS-  
SADORS?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE HAS NOT. I AM JUST GOING OVER  
HIS SCHEDULE SINCE I HAVE BEEN BACK. HE HAS NOT, THAT I  
KNOW OF.

Q. THE WIRES TODAY HAVE A NUMBER OF STORIES ABOUT THE  
REACTION OF LEADERS IN ALGERIA AND EGYPT, IRAN, OTHER  
AREAS, TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS IN THE BUSINESS WEEK  
INTERVIEW ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE. HAVING TALKED TO THE  
SECRETARY RECENTLY, DOES HE BELIEVE THAT THESE REACTIONS  
ARE PARTICULARLY HARSH, OR THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE TAKEN  
OUT OF CONTEXT AT ALL? HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY KIND  
OF REACTION FROM HIM ABOUT THE RATHER SEVERE REACTION OF  
MANY OF THESE LEADERS TO HIS COMMENTS?

A. WELL, FRANKLY, ON THIS SUBJECT I DON'T WANT TO EXTEND  
THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS. I DON'T WANT TO INTERPRET THEM  
ANY FURTHER. WE ARE AWARE, OBVIOUSLY, AS I SAID EARLIER  
IN THE BRIEFING, OF THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN  
.HE PRESS. THE SECRETARY MET WITH SOME OF YOU ON FRIDAY  
UPSTAIRS AT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S SWEARING IN WHERE  
HE ELABORATED SOMEWHAT, CLARIFIED SOMEWHAT HIS COMMENTS.

I HAVE THE TEXT OF THAT FOR ANY OF YOU WHO WANT TO SEE IT;  
BY THE WAY. IT IS IN THE PRESS OFFICE. AND I JUST HAVE  
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NOTHING MORE TO SAY. (SECRETARY'S REMARKS SENT SEPTTEL.)

Q. SOME OF THE REACTIONS HAVE NOT COME IN UNTIL THIS  
MORNING. THAT IS WHY I WAS CURIOUS.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ON THAT. END QUOTE.

FYI: FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED TO PRESS LATER.  
ALL LETTERS TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WERE SENT OUT  
DECEMBER 24. END FYI. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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TEHRAN  
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